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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
1 November 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: State Department Briefing on Laos

1. The press items referring to North Vietnamese intervention in Laos which you asked about were based not on a State Department release, but rather on two separate department briefings. The first was given on 28 October by Robert McCloskey and the second on 29 October by Richard I. Phillips.

2. According to the INR desk officer, the briefings were designed to indicate for the record the concern felt by the United States--a signatory of the Geneva Accords guaranteeing the neutrality of Laos--over the recent build-up in Communist strength which has taken place since the end of the rainy season.

3. The material presented was in the main accurate, with the exception of one major gaffe: McCloskey, in response to a question, suggested that North Vietnamese "replenishment and resupply" of military equipment was in fact not a violation of the Geneva Agreements. This, of course, is not the case and necessitated Phillips' subsequent briefing to set the record straight.



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State Department review completed